



BLM chastised

BY MICHELLE BINKER
IVN Staff Writer

“We’ve been invited, and we’re here to listen,” said Jon Raybourn regarding the East Fork (Illinois River) Landscape Management Project that’s one of five Bureau of Land Management (BLM) timber sales planned in Illinois Valley, and which stretch in a practically unbroken corridor from Selma to Takilma.

As guests at a meeting attended by approximately 150 residents Thursday night, Jan. 12 in the Takilma Community Building, the planners, including Raybourn, got an earful.

The gathering began

with an evocative song in honor of the “Great Tree,” in a warm room redolent with smoke of smudged sage. Then BLM’s neighbors in the East Fork of the Illinois River watershed project area -- predominately Takilma and immediate vicinity -- gave voice to their passionate love for the most ancient members of their community, the trees and rare, intact, low-elevation forests which give the area its rich, unique and precious quality.

Raybourn gave a brief presentation outlining project possibilities including various degrees of canopy

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Takilma resident Pat Mersman enumerates for Max Yager and other members of the BLM planning team many considerations she felt the East Fork Landscape

Management Project alternatives overlook. “Don’t do anything until you get it sorted out,” she and dozens of others urged BLM. (Photo by Michelle Binker)

Teen work with elderly, disabled goal of Coalition project

Grant of \$10,000 received from Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation

An Illinois Valley Family Coalition (IVFC) work project for teen-agers to work with senior citizens and disabled persons has been funded with a \$10,000 grant.

A community meeting about the project will be held Friday, Jan. 20 beginning at 6 p.m. at the I.V. Family Resource Center on E. River Street in Cave Junction.

IVFC partnered with several community organizations to develop the project, said Executive Director Carol Ronan, in announcing the grant from the Cow

Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation.

“The project will employ teen-agers from Illinois Valley to assist seniors and disabled persons with activities that are difficult or impossible for them to complete on their own,” said Ronan. “For every three hours of paid employment, teens will be assigned one hour of community services work to aid improvements.”

Some of the organizations that will provide support, mentoring, training, supervision, accounting,

reporting or selection of community projects are:

The Job Council, Rogue Community College, I.V. Community Development Organization, I.V. Senior Center, I.V. Chamber of Commerce, I.V. Boys & Girls Club, Three Rivers School District schools in the valley, and IVFC.

Our mission for this project is to work with teens to help them establish good work ethics, provide a positive work experience, improve attendance and build self-esteem,” Ronan noted.

“At the same time,” she said, “the project will provide valley senior and disabled persons with much-needed help and improve the appearance and community spirit in Illinois Valley.”

She said that the funds will be used specifically for:

*Recruiting teen-agers who are full-time students.

*Recruiting senior and disabled persons needing assistance on tasks that can be performed by teen-agers.

*Provide skills training, work ethics training, supervision and mentoring for

teen-agers.

*Review specific jobs and assure that teen-agers have skills and the tools they need for those jobs.

*Follow up with teen-agers and customers to determine satisfaction levels for performance.

*Teach teen-agers basic financial record-keeping.

*Purchase supplies needed for jobs.

*Bring community partners together to work towards common goals for the community, teen-agers, and senior and disabled persons.

“We have also requested funding from the Carpenter Foundation and the Collins Foundation and hope to hear from them soon,” said Ronan.

Those who know of a teen-ager who would be interested in this program or a senior/disabled person who could use the assistance of a teen-ager should contact Illinois Valley Family Coalition, 535 E. River St., Cave Junction OR 97523.

Persons also can phone Ronan or Maureen Goodrich at (541) 592-6139, Ext. 303.

I.V. Fire directors note public meeting format

A policy specifying rules and conduct for audiences during meetings has been posted on the wall behind the dais used by Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) directors.

Public comments, when allowed by invitation, will be limited to three minutes, according to information provided in the agenda packet.

The sign behind the dais was posted in time for the IVFD board meeting at administrative HQ Thursday night, Jan. 12.

Citing Oregon Revised Statute 192.630, the sign begins with, “The Public Meetings Law is a public attendance law, not a public participation law. Under the Public Meetings Law, governing body meetings are open to the public except as otherwise noted by law.”

“The right of public attendance guaranteed by (the law) does not include the right to participate by public testimony or comment.

“At this time,” the sign continues, “the Board thanks you for your interest

and welcomes all your comments and concerns in writing. Each letter will be addressed in a timely manner.”

The sign also notes that, “The presiding officer has inherent authority to keep order and to impose any reasonable restrictions necessary for the orderly conduct.

“Any person who fails to comply ... may be asked or required to leave.” Those who fail to do so become trespassers, the sign notes.

Data provided with the agenda included the notation that, “There will be no comments allowed from the audience.” However, the board chairman has the discretion of allowing the public to speak, generally at the end of meetings, but can invoke the rules if necessary.

The sign also notes, “Those invited to speak will keep their comments, concerns and questions directed to the board, and not the staff. The directors will listen, and if they deem a response is necessary, will present their response in

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Fatal 199 crash near O’Brien

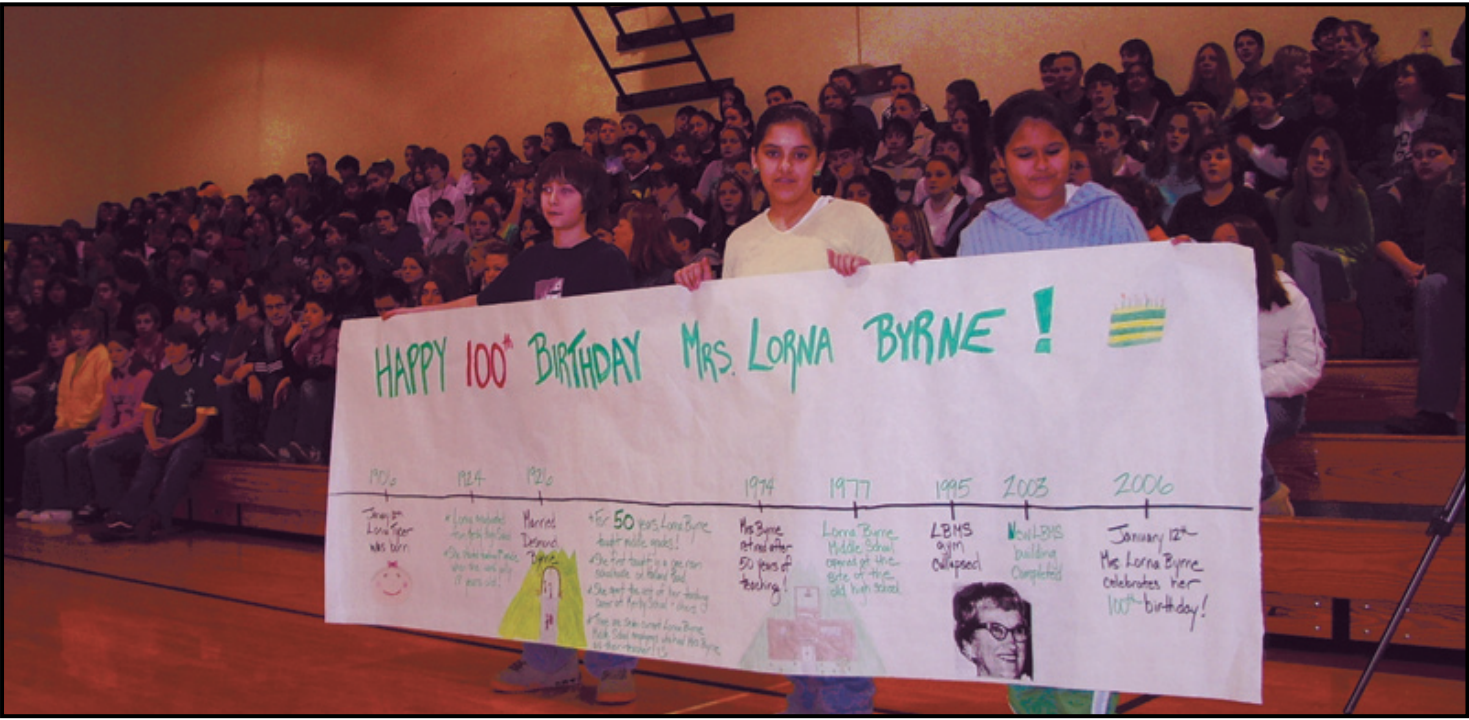
An icy roadway appears to be a factor in a pickup truck vs. tree crash in which a Selma resident died near O’Brien Sunday, Jan. 15, said Oregon State Police.

The victim was identified as Daniel Edward Bates, 60, who was pronounced dead at the scene on Hwy. 199 near milepost 37, a short distance north of the California/Oregon border. OSP said that he lost control of his vehicle.

His passenger, who was wearing a safety belt, was

identified as Grants Pass resident David L. Archambault, 55, was taken by American Medical Response to Three Rivers Community Hospital in Grants Pass. The injuries were reported to be not life-threatening.

The accident was reported at 8:34 a.m., said Deputy Chief Jeff Gavlik, of Illinois Valley Fire District. He said that extrication was not necessary. OSP said that the full-size 2005 Dodge pickup was southbound.



‘HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LORNA BYRNE’ was the theme of an assembly of Lorna Byrne Middle School students Thursday, Jan. 12. They sang ‘Happy Birthday’ in honor of the school’s namesake, a retired teacher who celebrated her 100th birthday in Grants Pass the same day. LBMS staffers MeMe Osipovich and Sandra Box, who were in the honored teacher’s eighth-grade classes, recalled her discipline and teaching students academics and good manners. And Julie Pope, also one of her eighth-grade students, recalled Lorna’s dead-eye aim with an eraser when a boy was turned around at his desk speaking to the person behind him,

which was strictly against Lorna’s rules. Principal Tom Hewkin noted that his wife, Kathy, also has fond memories of Lorna’s teaching skills. Hewkin said that it seems that the middle school is the only public building in Josephine County named after a living person. Lorna Byrne’s party at her residence included a bouquet of 100 chrysanthemums, her favorite flower. IVHS Alumni & Friends helped with the celebration. The banner was made by Heather Sheehan’s sixth-grade class and was held by (from left) Andrew Mullens, Rebecca Sawell, and Ali Buckmaster. (Photos by ‘Illinois Valley News’)

